

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
CLEVELAND 6. OHIO

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FOR RELEASE

August 19 or after

CARTIER-BRESSON PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE SHOWN AT CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Featured at the Cleveland Museum of Art beginning August 19 will be an exhibit of photographs by the French documentary photographer HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON entitled THE DECISIVE MOMENT. This retrospective exhibition covers the years 1930 - 1957 and includes 358 black and white photographs. The pictures portray the drama of human life on a world-wide scale. They were taken in all parts of the world - France, Great Britain, Russia, Mexico, America and the Near and Far East. The exhibition opened at the Louvre in Paris and after appearing in several European cities has recently arrived in this country from London and Tokyo.

Henri Cartier-Bresson is one of the great pioneers of modern photography and has achieved international recognition for his work. He has travelled throughout the world recording the life of the people in various countries. While interested in the typical rather than the unusual, Cartier-Bresson has also captured the poetic qualities hidden in Man. He is a sensitive artist who discovers fine shots rather than contrives or arranges them. He is able quickly to grasp the essence of a geographical environment. He has caught the matter-of-factness of Holland, the muted atmosphere of the deserts of the Middle East, the cold glare of the Spanish light, the provincialism of the French peasant. Timing is the vital element in the work of Cartier-Bresson. He chooses the meaningful image from among thousands of meaningless ones. He has captured whole events in a moment of exposure, in the fraction of a second, when a commonplace scene reveals most fully what has gone before and what is to come - the decisive moment when people and things seem to arrange themselves in harmony with each other and with time.

Included in the exhibition are his portraits of internationally famous painters and literary figures. Matisse is photographed with his birds, Bonnard in his atelier, Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir in lonely urban settings, Albert

Camus as L'ETRANGER and William Faulkner in his garden. By presenting people in their own familiar backgrounds Cartier-Bresson infuses his sitters with their own special qualities.

Some of his most famous pictures include CHILDREN PLAYING IN SPANISH RUINS, 1934; the emotion-filled scene of homage being paid to CARDINAL PACELLI (now Pope Pius XII), 1938; CORONATION OF GEORGE VI. WAITING FOR THE PROCESSION, 1938; SUNRISE BEHIND THE HIMALAYAS, 1948; BALI. PREPARATIONS FOR A DANCE, 1949; RICE FIELD IN SUMATRA, 1950 and studies made in Russia in 1954.

The exhibit is being circulated in America by the American Federation of Arts under the auspices of the Association Francaise d'Action Artistique and the French Cultural Services in the United States. The exhibition will close on September 30.

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